

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 SAM-01 IO-10 SAJ-01 /072 W

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R 301526Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6754

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF GR XH

SUBJ: GREEK EMIGREES IN BLOC COUNTRIES

REF ATHENS 8505, BUCHAREST 5584, SOFIA 2204,  
USBERLIN 2184

1. SUMMARY. ATHENS PRESS IN RECENT DAYS HAS UNDERSCORED,  
AND SYMPATHETICALLY ON WHOLE, ISSUE OF RESTORATION OF  
CITIZENSHIP AND REPATRIATION OF GREEK REFUGEES IN COMMUNIST  
COUNTRIES. SOME OFFICIAL SOURCES APPEAR TO BE ENCOURAGING  
PRESS CAMPAIGN, WHILE OTHERS MAY BE TRYING TO DAMPEN  
GROWING EXPECTATION THAT QUICK RESOLUTION OF REFUGEE  
ISSUE AT HAND. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH RECENT MEETING CHAIRED BY MINISTER INTERIOR

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STEPHANOPOULOS AS THEIR CATALYST, MOST ATHENS DAILIES

DURING CHRISTMAS PERIOD HAVE FOCUSED PUBLIC ATTENTION ON EXPATRIATE ISSUE THROUGH LEAD, FRONT PAGE STORIES. PRESS APPEARS TO HAVE HAD AMPLE "NOT FOR ATTRIBUTION" BACKGROUND BRIEFING ON MEETING, AND MOST PAPERS CONCLUDED GOG AT HIGH LEVEL IS SYMPATHETIC TO RESTORING CITIZENSHIP AND EASING RETURN OF SOME THOUSANDS OF EXPATRIATES AFTER TWENTY-FIVE YEAR ABSENCE. ON DEC 28 TWO IMPORTANT DAILIES, KATHIMERINI AND TO VIAM, IN FRONT PAGE ARTICLES INTERPRETED PRESENT STATE OF PLAY AS HUNG UP ON TECHNICAL, RATHER THAN POLICY, QUESTION WHETHER SPECIAL LEGISLATION REQUIRED IN ORDER TO PROCEED WITH REPATRIATION.

3. COMMUNIST DAILIES FULLY SYMPATHETIC, AND CONSERVATIVE KATHIMERINI HAS JOINED IN EDITORIAL ENDORSEMENT OF RETURN TO HOMELAND OF ALL GREEKS. KATHIMERINI SAID TIMES HAVE CHANGED ENOUGH TO ALLOW RETURN POLITICAL REFUGEES, BUT ALSO ARGUED GUEST WORKERS IN WEST GERMANY SHOULD RETURN IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMY AND RESUME NORMAL POPULATION GROWTH. ONLY ANTI-COMMUNIST ESTIA HAS EDITORIALIZED AGAINST RETURN OF FORMER GREEK LEFTISTS.

4. ESTIMATES OF GREEKS INVOLVED HAVE RANGED FROM 50,000 TO 80,000 TO 100,000 IN STORIES, ALL OF WHICH CALAIM A BASIS IN "WELL INFORMED SOURCES." COMMUNIST AVQHI DOWNPLAYED NUMBERS DEFINITELY MUCH SMALLER THAN 100,000. AVQHI'S FIGURES FOR ELIGIBLE RETURNEES ARE: TOTAL OF 57,500 WITH 13,500 IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, 6,900 ROMANIA, 9,000 POLAND, 15,000 USSR, 7,000 BULGARIA, 1,700 GDR, 4,400 HUNGARY. BREAKDOWN BY AGE AND SCHOOLING SUGGEST RELATIVELY YOUTHFUL CLAIMANTS WITH ONLY 10.6 PERCENT IN PENSION STATUS AND 37.8 PERCENT SCHOOL AGE OR PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN.

5. ACROPOLIS, WHICH SUPPORTS GOG, RAN DAMPENING STORY DECEMBER 27, PREDICTING THAT GOG DOES NOT INTEND TO ALLOW MASS REPATRIATION OF ALL GREEK COMMUNISTS. GOVERNMENT ITSELF HAS BEEN CALLING ATTENTION THROUGH REGULAR NEWS RELEASES TO THE SEVERAL HUNDRED LEFTISTS WHO HAVE HAD THEIR CITIZENSHIP RESTORED THROUGH RECENT INDIVIDUAL PETITIONS FAVORABLY REVIEWED BY SPECIAL CITIZENSHIP COMMITTEE. LEFTIST PRESS ASSERTS THAT MOST POLITICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REFUGEES RESENT EXISTING PROCEDURE VIA PETITION AND AWAIT SOME SPECIAL DECREE ALONG AMNESTY LINE WHICH WILL REINSTATE ALL REFUGEES EN MASSE WITHOUT PREJUDICE. KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

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